

Having finished the mission "Peace in East Timor" ("Lusitania Expresso" Boat), there was the urge to continue the fight for the freedom of the People of East Timor.

To that challenge there was given several responses throughout the years. But more had to be done. Faithful to our principles we decided to create in the month of March 1994 (2 years after the mission) this Association.

1. AIMS

The 12th November Association wishes to contribute:

- * For the preservation of East Timor History, tradition and culture.

- * For the promotion and defence of the East Timor right to self-determination, by bringing up the issue in the international media and being part of its agenda, and in the international institutions (United Nations, European Union, etc).

- * For supporting the East Timor youngsters in their fight for freedom.

- * For helping them in their education and in whatever emergency situation.

2. BACKGROUND

a. During these last years, due to the conflict between Indonesia and East Timor, Portugal has welcomed a quite meaningful number of East Timor refugees, looking for shelter and for a completely new life.

b. The 12th November Association was founded among other aims, to help the East Timor refugees living in Portugal. Having this in mind we are promoting a training course to upgrade their professional skills. This course has at this moment 63 trainees who are learning Portuguese, computers, English, math, business etc and specific courses that include workmanship, textile and gastronomy of East Timor.



c. Last November our organization produced a rock concert in Lisbon to remember the Santa Cruz Massacre (12th November 1991) where at least 200 timorees died in the hands of the Indonesian Army. This concert had the participation of the major portuguese rock bands and a video statment of world celebrities like Bono (U2), Bishop Tutu, Morton Hacket (A-AH), Michael Hutchence (INXS) and others. The concert was a world live TV broadcast (portuguese TVI and RTPi). Xanana Gusmão, leader of the East Timorese resistance addressed the audience throught a audio tape taped in prision. The concert was a success.

d. In the future we want to promote more activities at the training level with the support of the European Union through it's program called Horizon. We are planning to develop a program about high tech communication (InterNet and GreenNet among others) and social comunication (media studies). We think that both these 2 areas are very important for the East Timor fight for freedom and peace.

3. INFORMATION

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